(BSP January 27, 2003)

Polyester Concrete

Mix Design

Polyester concrete shall be composed of the following three components – polyester resin binder, high molecular weight methacrylate (HMWM) resin, and aggregate, in accordance with Section 6-02.2 as supplemented in these Special Provisions.

The Contractor shall prepare and submit the polyester concrete design mix and mixing procedure, including samples of all components for each lot, to the WSDOT Materials Laboratory for testing. The mix design shall include a recommended initiator percentage for the expected application temperature. The Contractor shall not begin ordering materials for application of the polyester concrete until receiving the Engineer's approval of the polyester concrete design mix and mixing procedure.

Delivery and Storage of Materials

All materials shall be delivered in their original containers bearing the manufacturer's label, specifying date of manufacturing, batch number, trade name brand, and quantity. Each shipment of polyester resin binder and HMWM resin shall be accompanied by a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

The material shall be stored to prevent damage by the elements and to ensure the preservation of their quality and fitness for the work. The storage space shall be kept clean and dry, and shall contain a high-low thermometer. The temperatures of the storage space shall not fall below nor rise above that recommended by the manufacturer. Every precaution shall be taken to avoid contact with flame.

Stored materials shall be inspected prior to their use, and shall meet the requirements of these Special Provisions at the time of use.

Any material which is rejected because of failure to meet the required tests or that has been damaged so as to cause rejections shall be immediately replaced at no additional expense to the Contracting Agency.

Sufficient material to perform the entire polyester concrete application shall be in storage at the site prior to any field preparation, so that there shall be no delay in procuring the materials for each day's application.

Material Health and Safety Training and Precautions

The Contractor shall arrange to have the material supplier furnish technical service relating to application of material and health and safety training for personnel who are to handle the polyester concrete and the HMWM resin prime coat.

Appropriate impermeable protective garments shall be used by all workers who may contact the resin or initiators to prevent skin contact. If skin contact occurs, the resin or initiators shall be immediately washed off. Clothing that becomes saturated with resin shall be removed immediately.

Equipment and Containment

All equipment for cleaning the concrete and steel surfaces, and mixing and applying the polyester concrete, shall be submitted to the Engineer for approval.

The HMWM resin, and abrasive blasting materials, shall be contained and restricted to the surface receiving the polyester concrete only, and shall not escape to the surrounding environment. The Contractor shall submit the method and materials used to collect and contain the HMWM resin, and abrasive blasting materials, to the Engineer for approval.

The Contractor shall not begin polyester concrete work, including surface preparation, until receiving the Engineer's approval of the equipment, and the collection and containment system.

Surface Preparation

Using the equipment, material, technique, and procedures established for surface preparation, the concrete and steel surfaces shall be prepared by removing all material which may act as a bond breaker between the surface and the polyester concrete. Surface cleaning shall be by abrasive blasting.

Precautions shall be taken to ensure that no dust or debris leaves the roadway deck and that all traffic is protected from rebound and dust. Appropriate shielding shall be provided as required at no additional expense to the Contracting Agency and shall be as approved by the Engineer.

If the concrete or steel surfaces become contaminated, the contaminated areas shall be recleaned by abrasive blasting at no additional expense to the Contracting Agency.

Application of Prime Coat

Application of the HMWM prime coat and the polyester concrete shall not begin if rain is expected. The area receiving the prime coat shall be dry and had no rain within the past 12 hours. Immediately prior to applying the prime coat, the surfaces shall be swept clean by compressed air to remove accumulated dust and any other loose material.

The concrete bridge deck surface shall be between 50F and 100F when applying the prime coat.

The Contractor shall apply one coat of promoted/initiated wax-free HMWM resin to the prepared concrete and steel surfaces immediately before placing the polymer concrete. The promoted/initiated resin shall be worked into the concrete in a manner to assure complete coverage of the area receiving polyester concrete. A one pint sample of each batch of promoted/initiated HMWM resin shall be retained and submitted to the Engineer at the time of primer application to verify proper catalyzation.

The prime coat shall cure for 30 minutes minimum before beginning placement of the polyester concrete. Placement of the polymer concrete shall not proceed until the Engineer verifies that the HMWM resin was properly promoted and initiated, as evidenced by the HMWM batch sample.

If the primed surface becomes contaminated, the contaminated area shall be cleaned by abrasive blasting and reprimed at no additional expense to the Contracting Agency.

Under no circumstances shall any resin run into drains or expansion joints, or otherwise escape the Contractor's collection and containment system.

Mixing Equipment for Polyester Concrete

Polyester concrete shall be mixed in mechanically operated mixers in accordance with the mix design as approved by the Engineer. The mixer size shall be limited to a nine cubic yard maximum capacity, unless otherwise approved by the Engineer.

The aggregate and resin volumes shall be recorded for each batch along with the date of each recording. A printout of the recordings shall be furnished to the Engineer at the end of each work shift.

The Contractor shall prevent any cleaning chemicals from reaching the polyester mix during the mixing operations.

Mixing Components

The polyester resin binder in the polyester modified concrete shall be approximately 12 percent by weight of the dry aggregate. The Contractor shall determine the exact percentage as approved by the Engineer.

The amount of peroxide initiator used shall result in a polyester concrete set time between 30 and 120 minutes during placement as determined by California Test 551, Part 2, "Method of Test For Determination of Set Time of Concrete Overlay and Patching Materials", by Gilmore Needles. Accelerators or inhibitors may be required as recommended by the polyester resin binder supplier and as approved by the Engineer.

The polyester resin binder shall be initiated and thoroughly blended just prior to mixing the aggregate and binder. The polyester concrete shall be thoroughly mixed prior to placing.

Polyester Concrete Placement

The polyester concrete shall be placed on the liquid or hardened prime coat within two hours of placing the prime coat.

Polyester concrete shall be placed prior to gelling and within 15 minutes following initiation, whichever occurs first. Polyester concrete that is not placed within this time shall be discarded.

The surface temperature of the area receiving the polyester concrete shall be the same as specified above for the HMWM prime coat.

Under no circumstances shall any polyester mixture run into drains or expansion joints, or otherwise escape the Contractor's collection and containment system.

The polyester concrete shall be consolidated to a relative compaction of not less than 97 percent.

Finished Polyester Concrete Surface

The finished surface of the polyester concrete shall conform to the requirements of Section 6-02.3(10).

The polyester concrete shall be consolidated by means approved by the Engineer. Finishing equipment used shall strike off the polyester concrete to the established grade and cross section. Forms shall be coated with suitable bond release agent to permit ready release of forms.

The polyester concrete shall receive an abrasive sand finish. The sand finish shall be applied by hand immediately after strike-off and before gelling occurs. Sand shall be broadcast onto the surface to affect a uniform coverage of a minimum of 0.8 pounds per square yard.

The surface texture of polyester concrete surface shall be uniform. The polyester concrete shall be impervious to moisture.

Curing

Traffic and equipment shall not be permitted on the polyester concrete until it has achieved a minimum compressive strength of 2,500 psi as determined by the rebound number per ASTM C 805.

Areas of the polyester concrete that do not totally cure or that fail to attain the specified minimum compressive strength in six hours shall be removed and replaced by the Contractor at no additional expense to the Contracting Agency.